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Homoeopathic Medical College
of Pennsylvania

on the twenty sixth day of January

One thousand eight hundred and fifty three

by
R. B. Evans
of
Philadelphia

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An Essay on
Nephritis

Respectfully submitted to

The Faculty of the

Homoeopathic Medical College
of Pennsylvania

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Philadelphia

Nephritis is named from Nεφpos the kidneys, and indicates a derangement of that organ. It is preceded by severe aching pains in the lumbar region, which are slightly better by lying on the back; but are worse by movement or the least exertion. The pain does not stop in the lumbar region, but darts along the ureters causing additional suffering. So aggravating does it become that it usually causes the patient to scream, whilst the intense paroxysms are eventually followed by a comatose state producing relief for a time. When however, the crystallization of lithic acid takes place in the bladder, there is a renewal of the sufferings, and the pain passes along in the direction of the ureters to the kidneys where it becomes stationary. There is much nausea and vomiting, besides colic pains that are apt to be mistaken for bilious colic. The surface of the body is dry and parched and hotter than in a state of health.

health; altho sometimes during the pains or directly after their subsidence, there is a coldness of the extremities as in articulo mortis. Sometimes on passing stools there is painful tenesmus; at other times, a copious debilitating diarrhoea, accompanied with cold perspiration and considerable nausea. In the emission of urine there is in the early stage of the disease a copious discharge followed by a pain in the penis. As the disease continues, the discharge is less; so that at times there is a partial suspension causing it to exude from the sides, which gives rise to the thought on the part of the observing that there is some body stopping up the orifice, and preventing a due discharge.

In diagnosing Nephritis, it is well to bear in mind the symptoms already enumerated, and to distinguish between it and the inflammation of the psoas muscle or lumbago, as the symptoms in the three diseases somewhat resemble each other. In

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Nephritis there is a diminution of pain on bending forward and relaxing the muscles; whilst by such a relaxation in the inflammation of the psoas muscle, the pains would be vastly increased. In Lumbago, there are not the suppression of urine, vomiting and nausea, and the pain shooting down the ureters, that characterize Nephritis.

To account for the pains in this affection, it is well to bear in mind the anatomy of the organs, the seat of the disease, and thus make a more correct diagnosis. The Kidneys are the secretory portion of the genito-urinary organs. They are two glandular bodies of a dull red color and in form resemble a bean. They ~~occupy~~ are situate in the lumbar region, and are opposite to the two last dorsal, and the two first lumbar vertebrae. The right kidney is lower than the left, and is contiguous to the posterior part of the right lobe of the liver and behind the duodenum and the colon. They are
invested

invested by a dense fibrous capsule. Their substance which is uniform in texture, consists of a corticle and medullary portion; the former being external, the latter internal. The corticle portion is the true secretory portion, whilst the medullary part is formed by the pyramids of Malpizzii, which are pyramidal in shape and are attached to the periphery. Fifteen or twenty tubuli uriniferi exist in the pelvis of the Kidney which is on the border of the gland. The pelvis of the Kidney is formed of fibrous and mucous coats that are continuous with the ureters. These are two connecting ducts cylindrical in shape that pass from the Kidneys to the bladder which they pierce obliquely at the posterior inferior portion. They are 18 inches in length, and of a short diameter - are behind the peritoneum but in contact with it - approach the pelvis near the union of the Ileum and Sacrum and thence descend forwards and inwards, to the base of the bladder. They receive bloodvessels

and

and nerves from those of the neighbouring parts. Their internal mucous coat is very vascular and highly sensible of irritation.

Having traced the connection from the Kidneys along the ureters to the bladder, we shall now treat of the agency of this organ, ~~whether~~ as sharing the inflammation of the Kidneys, as well as being the receptacle of urinary calculi, first formed in the Kidneys and transmitted along one or both of the ureters. The bladder is a large sac of muscular and membranous structure. It is divided into four parts; the fundus, body, base and neck; the superior part is the fundus; the middle portion, the body; the posterior inferior part is the base, and that portion between the cavity and the opening is named the neck. It is firmly fixed to the pelvis immediately within the symphysis pubis. The relative position of the bladder and rectum in males is such, that the upper and middle part of
the

the rectum is parallel with and behind the bladder, but the lower part of the rectum, inasmuch as it follows the curve of the Coccyx and Sacrum lies below the posterior portion of the bladder. In females, the vagina and uterus lie between the rectum and bladder, ~~to~~ Altho' there is a difference in point of contiguity between the bladder and rectum, according to the difference of sex, the pains of this disease are alike in both male and female. The openings of the ureters is at the posterior inferior part where they pierce the mucous membrane. At this spot is a triangular space termed the Trigone Vesicle which is situated in a line drawn from both ureters. It is formed by the transverse muscular fibres, and is much smoother than any other part of the mucous membrane. At the end of this triangular space is a prominence called the Uvular Vesicle and is the most sensitive part of the bladder.

It is here that in Nephritis the pains are most intense, which are continued along the urethra, past the prostatic portion, to the glans penis.

The best remedies are Belladonna, Pulsatilla, Nux Vom, Aconite, Cantharides, Cammabis, Arnica, Hepar Sulph, Mercury, Sulphur & Thuja. Belladonna. This medicine is indicated when there are shooting pains extending along the ureters to the bladder. The pains are attended with periodical aggravation with much distress. The symptoms corresponding to this medicine are severe pains in the limbs resembling the bruising of joints and bones. The pains are of the character of cramps, spasms, and convulsive movements with violent jerking and contractions of the limbs. The attacks are attended with heaviness and weariness in the limbs, and an inaptitude for exertion. There is also a failure of strength, amounting sometimes not only

only to a prostration but a paralysis of one side.
The symptoms chiefly referable to the seat of the
pain, indicating the use of this medicine, are, -
shooting, violent pains in the genital organs, as
tho' they would fall lower than their natural po-
sition. There is also a sharp and drawing pain
in the spermatic cords when passing urine; also
a retraction of the prepuce and a shooting in the
testicles of the male. There is a frequent desire to
urinate. Also a paralysis of the neck of the bladder
accompanied with burning and shooting pains in
the renal region. There are, much pyrosis, nausea
and inclination to vomit, attended with copious
perspiration. Pressure, cramplike and contractive
pains in the stomach are also present; whilst the
stomach and duodenum are subject to a high
degree of inflammation. Colic with constipation
is present, as well as violent pain in the Abdomen.
There

There are inflation and tension in the abdominal and hypochondriacal regions. Also colic, cramp-like, contractive and constrictive pains, and pinching pains in the Abdomen, causing the patient to bend himself.

Pulsatilla being a medicine that is periodical in its character, and thus adapted to many of the diseases of the urinary organs of females, we should look to this valuable remedy, when the disease is induced by scanty, difficult and tardy menstruation.

Many of the general pathogenetic symptoms of this article correspond to the symptoms experienced in Nephritis; among which are, attacks of pain with shivering, suppressed perspiration with paleness of face & trembling of the legs. The violence of the sufferings correspond with the intensity of the shiverings.

Where

Where there is, besides the pains in the bladder, an uneasiness in the entire body with fainting fits and a deadly pallor upon the countenance. Where there are epileptic convulsions with violent movement of the limbs accompanied with a gastric disturbance urging to vomit. The ~~time~~^{symptoms} ~~at which~~ in the Abdomen are spasmodic and constrictive pains attended with colic, vomiting and diarrhoea.

In the genito-urinary organs ^{where} there is a retention of urine, accompanied with tenesmus of the vesica and a frequent desire to urinate. Where there is a drawing pain in the Abdomen and a painful pressure in the vesica. When there is a weakness in the loins and a painful diarrhoea, at the time a profuse emission of watery urine is given. Also where there is a contraction of the urethra and a burning before and after discharging urine.

~~And~~

Those medicines which have a decided effect upon the urinary organs act also upon the heart. Benzoid acid has a salutary effect upon the diseases of the kidneys and bladder. When indicated there is a crystallization of lithic acid at the bottom of a vessel. Berberis vulgaris is indicated where, during the attack, yellowish mucus crystals in the urine stick to the surface of a vessel. The pains symptomatic of the use of this are present at the time of passing the urine; whilst Sassa-parilla pains are after passing urine, and those of Cantharides remain in the walls of the bladder. This (Canth) may be used ~~at~~ when the fever is considerable, when micturition is painful and tearing pains exist in the loins and region of the kidneys. Concerning this medicine, it has been asserted, that in Nephritis, it stands forth a strong exemplification of the truth of ^{the} Homoeopathic law, its power of causing diseases of the urinary organs, even when applied in the form of a blister being ^{so} well known, that, in all medical works, it has been noted as an exciting cause of this affection.